

1st Rejection at Nazareth

(Based on Luke 4:16-31)

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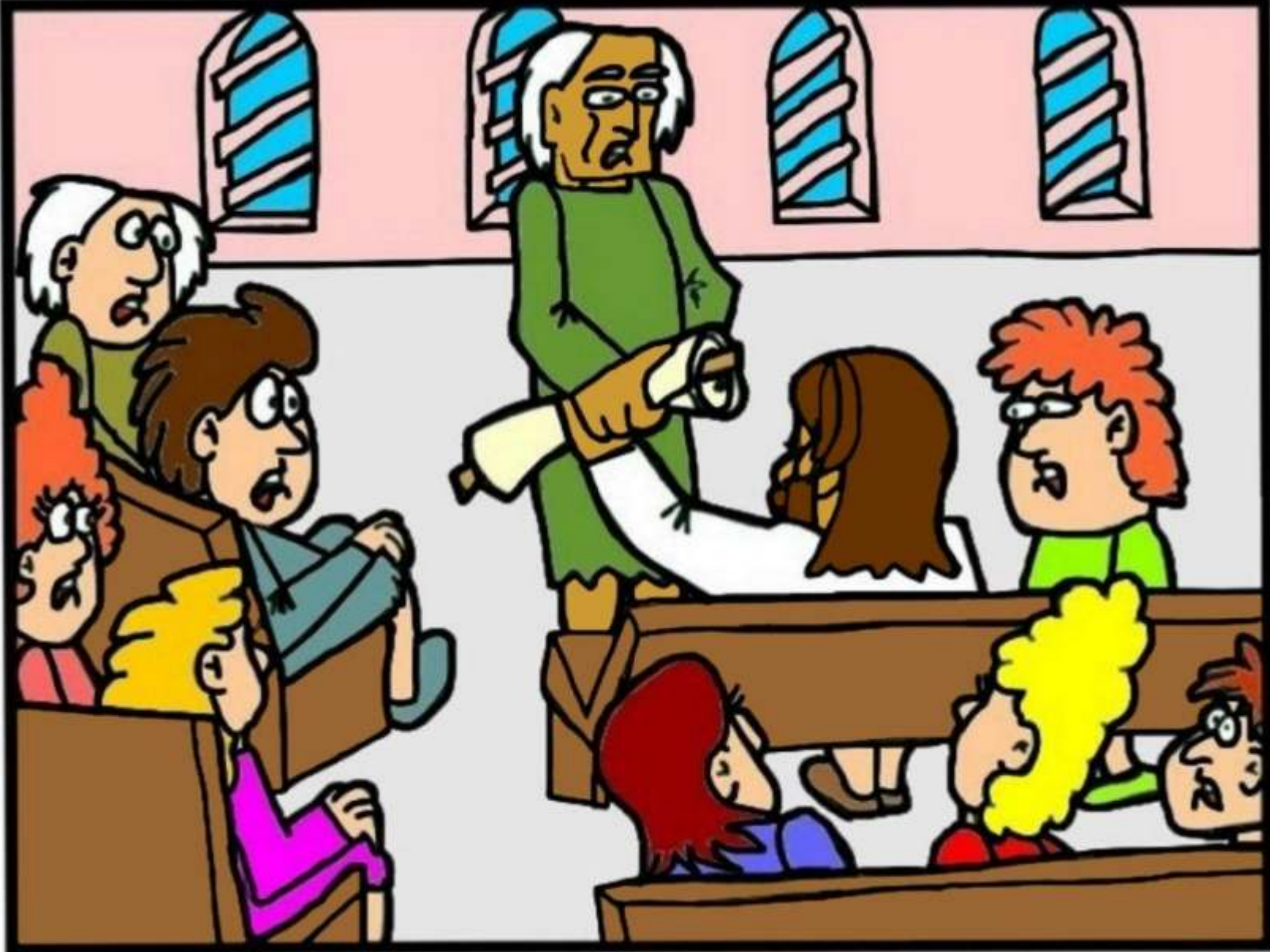
Jesus came to his hometown of Nazareth. On the Sabbath day Jesus stood up to read and they brought to him the book in the Bible called the book of Isaiah.



He opened the book and found a certain place and started to read. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.



He has sent me to declare freedom to the prisoners. He has sent me to tell the blind, I can make them see; to give freedom to those who are bruised; and to tell everyone this is the acceptable year of the Lord.”



Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the synagogue helper and then he sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were glued on Jesus.



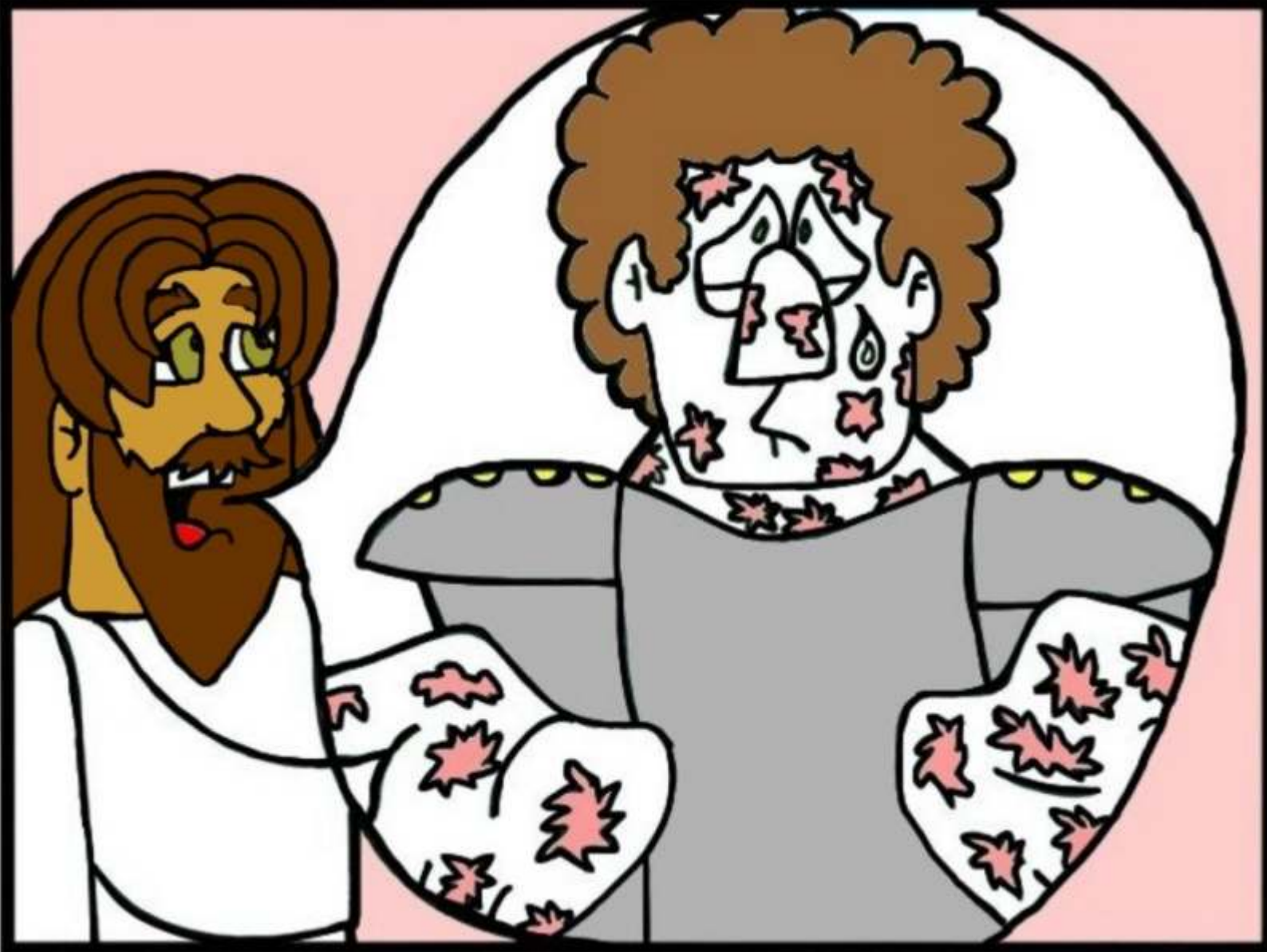
Jesus said, "Today this scripture has come to pass while you were listening." "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they whispered to each other. "Where did he learn to talk like that?"



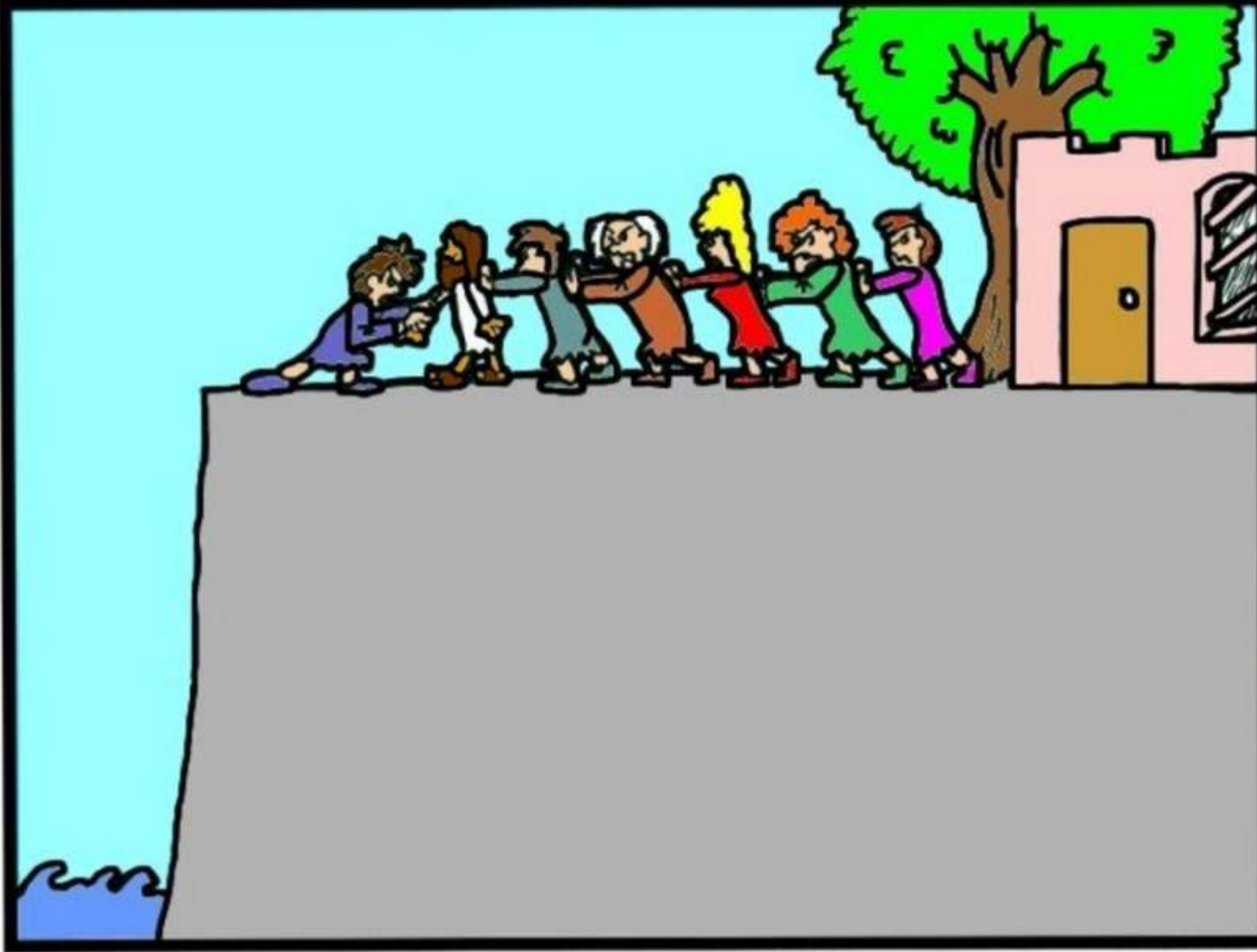
"One day you are going to say this famous saying to me, 'Doctor heal yourself. The things we hear you are doing in the town of Capernaum, do here also.' But I tell you the truth, no prophet is ever accepted by his home town people.



In the days when Elijah was a prophet, there were many ladies in Israel whose husbands had died. But when the food shortage came, Elijah wasn't sent to any of them. He was sent to a widow lady in the land of Sidon.



In the days when Elisha was a prophet, there were lots of people who had the leprosy disease in Israel. But none of them were healed. Only one guy named Naamaan was healed and he was from the country of Syria," said Jesus.



Then everyone in the synagogue became very, very grouchy. They got up, pushed Jesus out of the synagogue and led him to the brow of the hill where they planned to push him off the edge of the cliff.



But Jesus passed through the middle of them and went on his way. In fact he moved out of Nazareth and went to live in the town of Capernaum.



Lord, sometime YOU might want to speak to me through someone I know really well. Help me to see the message is really from YOU.